

Track team treks to Texas Relays

By PAUL MCGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

The 49th Texas Relays get into full swing today with over 48 teams entered in the university division.

The Relays began yesterday with decathlon competition, won by Christopher Lythell of Brigham Young with 7,521 points. Jeff Wells of Rice, an all-American in distance races, won the 10,000-meter run with a time of 28:55.08, a tenth of a second ahead of the second place finisher.

The Texas A&M track team, coached by Charles Thomas, will take a 22 man squad to the Austin meet. The Texas Relays are the first leg of the triple crown of amateur track. The others are the Kansas and Drake Relays. For the first time, all events will be in meters not yards.

About 156 teams and 1,500 athletes will compete in the meet which includes some of the best talent in the country.

The feature race will be on Saturday afternoon, pitting the five top mile relay teams in the nation. Baylor, Kansas, Texas, Arizona State and Florida all have a shot to capture the four lap event. The Bears have run a 3:09.3 and Texas a 3:10.2 this year. The Sun Devils have the best time in the nation thus far, but the Kansans and Floridians cannot be counted out.

Also featured will be 15 sub-four minute mile and five athletes with the ability to throw over 60 feet in the shot put. There will be a pair of pole vaulters who have conquered 18 feet and eight who have cleared 17 feet. Earl Bell of Arkansas State, winner of the NCAA meet with a 18-1 foot vault, and Roland Carter of the Gulf Coast Track Club will be two of the favorites.

The half mile has amongst a stellar

field one of the top 580 men in the nation. Kenyan Mike Boit of Eastern New Mexico should be the favorite after running a 1:43.8 earlier in the year.

All Southwest Conference and Southeastern Conference teams will compete along with last year's outstanding team in the Relays, UTEP.

The Aggies should have qualifiers in both hurdles events, the 880-yard run and pole vault. Texas A&M will also field competitive relay teams in the sprint medley relay, two-mile relay and 880-yard relay.

Shifton Baker, Craig McPhail and Curtis Collier forefront the Ags in the hurdles and Jim Brannen, Joel Vogt, Tommy Glass and Tony Wheeler will take on the 880. Wheeler has the best time in the SWC this year with a 1:48.7.

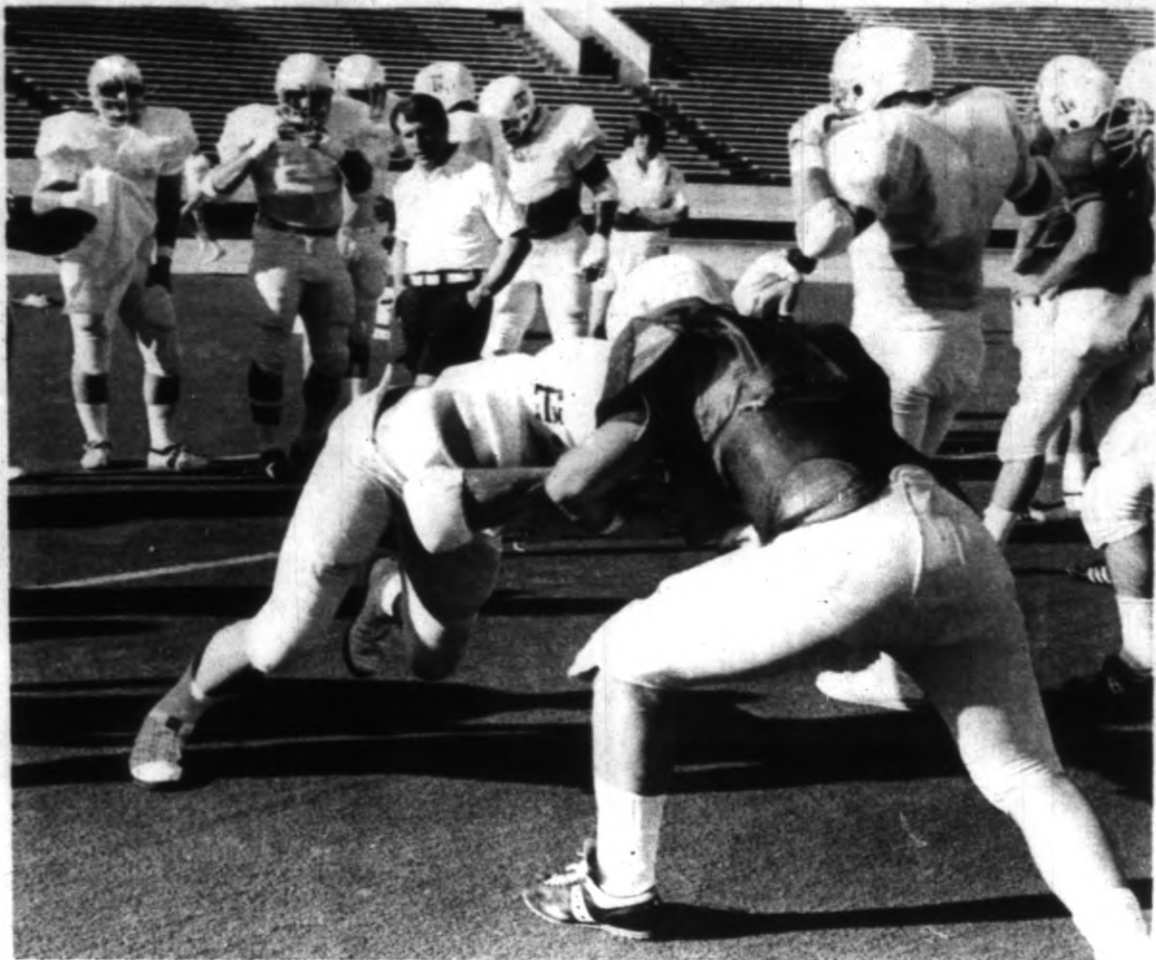
Charles Dawson, Ray Brooks and Chuck Butler will compete for Thomas in the sprints with Manfred Kohrs and Walter Jachimowicz listed for the distance races.

Bill Newton (javelin), Steve Stewart (discus), Frank West and Craig Carter (shot), Ronnie Keys and Don Riggs (high jump), Brad Blair (pole vault) and Tom Owen (long jump) are scheduled for the field events.

Thomas is very optimistic about the future of his team. "We have a real strong team but nobody knows because we aren't getting the publicity of teams like Baylor and Texas," Thomas said.

The Bears and Longhorns lose most of their top point scores after this season while the Aggies will lose only a minimal amount after graduation.

Today's prelims start at 9 a.m. with competition continuing until 9 p.m. Saturday's competition will stretch from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Head Coach Emory Bellard looks on as the Aggie gridders continue daily workouts at Kyle Field.

Photo by Jim Hendrickson

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Cager tries teaching

Associated Press

SHREVEPORT, La. — Students at Valencia Jr. High knew Robert Parish was not your average student-teacher the moment he ducked through the gym door.

The door was seven feet tall. The height that makes him stoop under doors made Parish a star basketball player at Centenary College for four years and a V.I.P. at Valencia.

"When he first came here, it seemed almost all the kids and teachers looped through the gym on the way to class to see him," said Bill Ducote, Valencia's full-time boys' gym teacher and Parish's supervisor while he student-taught.

"It was amazing to actually see someone that tall," the eighth grader said. "We were pretty lucky though — kids in the other classes said they wish they could have played against him like we did."

Student teaching — first at Valencia and now at Werner Park Elementary — was one of Parish's requirements for a degree in physical education. It's a degree he says his parents wanted him to get, even though he could have left college long ago for the big money of pro basketball.

Robert is usually even-tempered, but when he first started teaching, he came to practice with a scowl on his face," said Riley Wallace, a Centenary assistant basketball coach. "We asked him what was wrong. He said, 'It's those kids. They're driving me up a wall.'"

However, Ducote says Parish worked at communicating with his seventh, eighth and ninth graders and became a good instructor. He gave lessons in basketball, volleyball and track.

Thirteen-year-old Rickey Moore won't soon forget the sight of Parish playing with and against children nearly half his size.

"It was amazing to actually see someone that tall," the eighth grader said. "We were pretty lucky though — kids in the other classes said they wish they could have played against him like we did."

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Ag baseball team faces Owls today; needs win

The eighth-ranked Aggie baseball team takes on Rice in a three-game series this weekend, beginning with a 3 p.m. opener this afternoon.

Aggie pitching ace James Gibson (10-0) goes for an A&M record eleventh victory in the 1 p.m. first game of Saturday's double-header.

Gibson set a new school record in A&M's single victory of three games against Baylor Monday and Tuesday.

Gibson will go up against Rice star pitcher Allan Ramirez (8-2).

The Aggies are 24-4 for the season with a 7-2 conference record. Rice is 13-14 this season with a 6-6 record for conference play after three losses last weekend to fourth-ranked Texas.

Clint Thomas (5-2) will start today's opener. Thomas could tie the A&M career win record of 21 with a victory. The Aggies' David Lockett (5-0) will start Saturday's second game.

The Aggies' starting lineup should look like this: Buddy Grobe (second base), Robert Bonner (shortstop), Bill Raymer (rightfield), Kirk Campbell (first base), Randy Blanchard or Buster Turner (designated hitter), Mark Thurmond (centerfield), Winston Whiddon (third base), Robert Verde (leftfield) and John Biersner (catcher).

Spring drills for softball open soon

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Sports Writer

Spring training for the Women's Intercollegiate softball team will begin Wednesday, April 7 at 3:30 p.m.

The practices will be held at the new intramural softball fields located across Wellborn Highway, opposite the campus.

Spring training, unlike tryouts, will run between two and three weeks. The practices will be set up on an interval basis, designed to work and improve on individual skills such as batting, base running, and fielding. Also scheduled are several practice games.

"This is the first year we've had spring training," said Coach Kay Don. "We're having it to build a better and stronger team for the fall."

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McDonald's INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS



The Canoeing team of Hogan and Vansickle coast into a fourth place finish in the first annual IM Canoe Race held last Saturday. See story at right for more winners.

Superstar Contest Entries Now Open

The second annual IM Superstar Contest will be run between Monday, April 26 and Friday, May 7. Entries close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20 at the IM Office. All entrants will meet on April 20 at 5:00 p.m. in room 267, G. Rollie White.

The divisions are Women's and Men's with entrants using singles entry forms. There is to be only one entry per dorm, unit, fraternity, sorority, organization, or housing unit and each person must have a sponsor and wear a T-shirt with their last name and sponsor on it.

Events will include bowling, tennis, weightlifting, 100 yard swim, 100 yard dash, freethrow shooting, softball throw, and an obstacle course. Each contestant may enter a maximum of 7 events. 2 points will be awarded for each event entered and points will be awarded for placing in the events with 10 points for a 1st place win, 7 points for 2nd, 5 for 3rd, 3 for 4th, and 1 for 5th. If more than 20 people enter in each division, a play-off will determine the 20 to go into the finals. Criteria for this play-off can be seen at the IM Office, where entry forms are also available.

Fastpitch Tourney Tomorrow

Don't forget to come out and see the Fastpitch Softball Tournament to be held on the softball fields across campus on April 3 and 10.

D-2 Takes Horseshoe All-U Title

Don Royder and Joe Tillotson of D-2 defeated Barry Buske and Thomas Culberson, the Independent Winners in the All-University Horseshoes competition last week. The match went to three games with Buske and Culberson winning the first one 15-12. Royder and Tillotson came back and won the next two games 15-4 and 15-12. In other divisions, Dan Fischer and Jess Sheedy of Puryear won the Civilian division and the Fish division title was captured by D-2.



Don Royder of D-2 tosses a shoe in the All-University Horseshoes match. Royder and his partner, Joe Tillotson, defeated Barry Buske and Thomas Culberson to gain the All-U honors.

An unidentified Fish broad jumps in the IM Track and Field events held on Kyle Field this week. See next week's ad for full results.

Canoeing Winners

Mike Shively and John Bugge won the first annual IM Canoe Race last Saturday on the Brazos River. Their time on the 5-mile course was 52:02. Dave Donnell and Mike Vanderhurst took second with a time of 58:18, while Dan Schulsie and Tom Oliver placed third at 59:05. Jan Swinnea and Rhonda Koenig won the Women's Division with a time of 1:50:28, while Gustavo de La Rosa and Soozy Wellborn took the Co-Rec Division at 1:03:00. The race included 22 teams of two and was deemed a great success by the IM Office.

